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herewith please find a petition for a one-month extension of time. A response with a one-month extension of time is due February 7, 2003. Accordingly, this response is being timely filed.

Claims 1-24 were pending. Applicant presumes that the indication in the Office Action that claims 1-21 are pending is a typographical error. In addition, applicant presumes that the identification of the parent application serial number in the detailed action was an inadvertent typographical error. To the extent that the incorrect Office Action was mailed, applicant respectfully requests remailing of the correct Office Action and an opportunity to respond in a non-final action. By way of this response, claims 1-21, and 23-24 have been amended, and claim 25 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-25 remain pending.

The claims have been amended by replacing "power distribution apparatus" with "power distribution unit". Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to specify that the power distribution units include no internal battery. Claim 16 has also been amended to specify that at least one of the hard-wired output connections of the power distribution unit is structured to be connected to another power distribution unit. The amendments to the claims are supported by the specification, and no new matter has been added.

Items 1-2 of the Office Action - Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, and 14-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly anticipated by Powerware 5140

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Brochure and User's Guide, and in particular as allegedly anticipated by the POWERWARE 5140 Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). Applicant is not currently aware of the publication date of the User Guide, and respectfully reserves the right to antedate the User Guide in the future, as needed.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as they relate to the amended claims.

The claims are directed to power distribution units, not UPSs, such as the POWERWARE 5140 UPS. Claims 1, 16, and 21, and the claims dependent therefrom, recite a power distribution unit. To make clear that the power distribution units are not UPSs, claims 1 and 16 also recite that the units include a housing with no internal battery, and thus, UPSs are precluded from the claims. As persons of ordinary skill in the art understand, power distribution units are not UPSs, such as the POWERWARE 5140. Indeed, page 16 of the POWERWARE 5140 User Guide points to the fact that power distribution units are separate and distinct units from UPSs. In addition, pages 25-27 of the User Guide specifically indicate that a power distribution unit is an optional piece of equipment separate from the UPS. More particularly, the power distribution unit disclosed in the POWERWARE 5140 User Guide provides 120V output and up to 250 VA with two low-voltage outlets (page 26, last paragraph). As disclosed in the POWERWARE 5140 User Guide (e.g., see pages 2 and 18-22), UPSs have an internal battery that acts as a power reserve in the event of a power outage. The claimed invention is directed to an apparatus without an internal battery. Thus, as persons of ordinary skill in the art

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understand, power distribution units are not uninterruptible power supplies.

In addition, the POWERWARE 5140 User Guide actually supports the patentability of the instant claims. Figure 15 of the User Guide (page 27) shows a power distribution unit (PDU) that is separate from the POWERWARE 5140 UPS, but is used in conjunction with the POWERWARE 5140 UPS. The PDU disclosed on page 27 has only two receptacle outlets, which are low voltage outlets (see page 26, last paragraph). The PDU of POWERWARE 5140 User Guide does not have at least one hard-wired output connection and at least one receptacle output connection, let alone a plurality of hard-wired output connections, as recited in the pending claims.

Accordingly, the pending claims are not anticipated or suggested by the POWERWARE 5140 UPS disclosed in the User Guide and Brochure, or the POWERWARE 5140 PDU disclosed in the User Guide.

In addition, regarding some remarks in the Office Action regarding the direct connection to a commercial electrical power supply, the present claims do not recite such a direct connection.

In view of the above, applicant submits that claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, and 14-18 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

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Items 3-6 of the Office Action - Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Powerware 5140 in view of Kozlowski et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,747,734). Claim 5 and 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Powerware 5140. Claim 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over POWERWARE 5140 in view of Domigan (U.S. Patent No. 5,675,194).

Applicant has considered the rejections, and respectfully traverses the rejections as they apply to the amended claims. Regarding the rejections of claim 3, 5 and 13, applicant submits that the foregoing amendments and remarks regarding claim 1 are sufficient to point to the unobviousness of the present claims.

Regarding claims 19-24, the combination of POWERWARE 5140 and Domigan do not make obvious the invention of claims 19-24. As indicated above, POWERWARE 5140 is a UPS, and not a power distribution unit. UPS devices, such as the POWERWARE 5140, cannot be connected to other UPS devices. In other words, connecting the POWERWARE 5140 to another UPS will render the system inoperable. As understood by persons of ordinary skill in the art, UPS devices generate harmonics. In a system having two or more UPS devices connected to each other, the harmonics from one UPS will negatively affect the other UPS and cause it to fail. Because a system of UPS devices connected together would be inoperable, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of POWERWARE 5140 and Domigan, and thus, claims 19-24 are not obvious over that

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combination. In addition, independent claim 16 has been amended to include a limitation that at least one of the hard-wired output connections is structured to be connected to a second electrical power distribution unit. Because UPS devices cannot be connected to other UPS devices and still operate, applicant submits that the POWERWARE 5140 does not include a hard-wired output connection as recited in the claims.

Each of the present dependent claims is separately patentable over the prior art. For example, none of the prior art disclose, teach, or even suggest the present power distribution units including the additional feature or features recited in any of the present dependent claims. Therefore, applicant submits that each of the present claims is separately patentable over the prior art. In addition, none of the cited references disclose, teach, or even suggest including a switch as recited in claims 15, 20, and 24.

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In conclusion, applicant has shown that the present claims are not anticipated by and are unobvious from and patentable over the prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Therefore, applicant submits that the present claims, that is claims 1-25 are allowable. Therefore, applicant requests the Examiner to pass the above-identified application to issuance at an early date. Should any matters remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to call (collect) applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Date: 2/5/03

Respectfully submitted,



Frank J. Uxa

Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,612
4 Venture, Suite 300
Irvine, California 92618
(949) 450-1750
(949) 450-1764 Facsimile

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

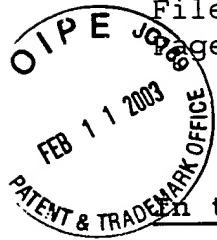
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below:

Date: FEBRUARY 5, 2003

By: 
atty 2/5/03

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE



in the Claims:

Claims 1-21 and 23-24 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An electrical power distribution unit [apparatus] comprising:

a housing having no internal battery;

an electrical power input assembly located substantially in the housing of the power distribution unit and adapted to be electrically connected to an electrical power supply; and

a plurality of electrical power output assemblies [located substantially in the housing,] electrically connected to the input assembly, and adapted to receive electrical power from the input assembly, the plurality of electrical power output assemblies including at least one output connection adapted to be hard-wired to a piece of equipment to provide electrical power and at least one receptacle adapted to receive an equipment plug to provide electrical power.

2. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 wherein the housing is rack mountable.

3. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 wherein the housing includes a front access door and a back access door.

4. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 which further comprises a meter located within the housing and adapted to monitor at least one property of electrical power passing through the input assembly.

5. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 which further comprises a transformer adapted to be in electrical communication with both the electrical power supply and the input assembly.

6. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 wherein the input assembly is adapted to be electrically connected to a single phase electrical power supply or to a three phase electrical power supply.

7. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 wherein the input assembly is adapted to be electrically connected to a single phase electrical power supply.

8. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 wherein each of the output assemblies includes a different circuit breaker.

9. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 wherein the plurality of electrical power output assemblies includes a plurality of differently configured receptacles for accommodating differently configured equipment plugs.

10. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 further comprising a circuit panel and wherein the plurality of electrical output assemblies are mounted in the circuit panel.

11. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 wherein the plurality of electrical power output assemblies include:

a plurality of output connections adapted to be hard-wired to equipment, and

a plurality of receptacles, each adapted to receive an equipment plug.

12. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 11 wherein the plurality of receptacles comprises differently configured receptacles for accommodating differently configured equipment plugs.

13. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 11 wherein the plurality of output connections comprise at least about 8 output connections.

14. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 11 wherein the plurality of receptacles comprises at least about 8 receptacles.

15. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 1 which further comprises a switch structured and positioned to alternately connect and disconnect one of two or

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more electrical power supplies to the electrical power input assembly.

16. (Amended) An electrical power distribution unit [apparatus] comprising:

a rack mountable housing having no internal battery;

an electrical power input assembly located substantially in the housing of the power distribution unit and adapted to be electrically connected to an electrical power supply; and

a plurality of electrical power output assemblies located substantially in the housing, electrically connected to the input assembly, and adapted to receive electrical power from the input assembly, the plurality of electrical power output assemblies including at least one output connection adapted to be hard-wired to a piece of equipment to provide electrical power and at least one of output connection structured to be connected to a second electrical power distribution unit.

17. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 16 wherein the housing is adapted to be mounted on a 19 inch or 23 inch rack.

18. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 16 which further comprises a meter located within the housing and adapted to monitor at least one property of electrical power passing through the input assembly.

19. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 16 wherein each of the output assemblies includes a different circuit breaker.

20. (Amended) The power distribution unit [apparatus] of claim 16 which further comprises a switch structured and positioned to alternately connect and disconnect one of two or more electrical power supplies to the electrical power input assembly.

21. (Amended) An electrical power distribution system comprising:

a plurality of electrical power distribution units [apparatus], each electrical power distribution unit [apparatus] being adapted to be electrically connected with at least one of the other electrical power distribution units [apparatus], each of the electrical power distribution units [apparatus] comprising:

a housing;

an electrical power input assembly located substantially in the housing and adapted to be electrically connected to an electrical power supply; and

a plurality of electrical power output assemblies located substantially in the housing, electrically connected to the input assembly, and adapted to receive electrical power from the input assembly, the plurality of electrical power output assemblies including at least one output connection adapted to be hard-wired to a piece of equipment to provide electrical power and at least one receptacle adapted to receive an equipment plug and to provide electrical power.

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23. (Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein each of the electrical power distribution units [apparatus] further comprises a meter disposed within the housing and adapted to monitor at least one property of electrical power passing through the input assembly.

24. (Amended) The system of claim 21 which further comprises a switch structured and positioned to alternately connect and disconnect one of two or more electrical power supplies to the electrical power input assembly of one of the units [apparatus].

The following claims has been added:

25. (New) The power distribution unit of claim 1, wherein the plurality of electrical power output assemblies are located substantially in the housing.